

Message Text

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FOR MEPD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, EAIR, ECRE, NU
SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS -- AIRPORTS

REF: MANAGUA 2597

1. THIS IS THE NINTH, AND LAST, TELEGRAM IN A SERIES WHICH HAS SUM-
MARIZED MAJOR PROJECTS IN NICARAGUA WHICH OFFER OPPORTUNITIES
FOR U.S. FIRMS. EACH TELEGRAM HAS FOCUSES ON ONE SECTOR OF THE ECO-
NOMY. A COMPOSITE, TYPED REPORT WILL BE FORWARDED TO MEPD AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE.

2. PROJECT I -- UPGRADING OF REGIONAL AIRPORTS

A. DESCRIPTION

THIS PROJECT INVOLVED SUBSTANTIAL UPGRADING OF EAST COAST AIRPORTS
AT BLUEFIELDS, CORN ISLAND, PUERTO CABEZAS, WASPAN, LA ROSITA, SAN
CARLOS, AND NUEVA GUINEA. ALSO INCLUDED ARE THE REGIONAL AIRPORTS
AT CHINANDEGA, LEON, LOS BRASILES, AND SAN JUAN DEL SUR IN THE
PACIFIC REGION, AS WELL AS OCOTAL, MUSUN AND RIO BLANCO IN CENTRAL
NICARAGUA. RUNWAYS ARE TO BE LENGTHENED, PAVED, AND ILLUMINATED. CON-
TROL EQUIPMENT IS TO BE INSTLLED AND PASSENGER TERMINALS CONSTRUCTED.
ALL OF THE ABOVE AIRPORTS CURRENTLY HAVE VIRTUALLY NO GROUND SUPPORT
FACILITIES AND HAVE DIRT/GRASS RUNWAYS IN POOR CONDITION.

B. PROJECT COST

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US \$20 MILLION; SOURCE OF FINANCING UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME.

C. FOREIGN PROCUREMENT

CONSULTING AND ENGINEERING SERVICES, GROUND SUPPORT AND LIGHTING
EQUIPMENT.

D. TIME OF EXECUTION

PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY COMPLETED. SOME WORK ON AIRPORTS IN BLUEFIELDS,
CORN ISLAND, AND SAN CARLOS ALREADY UNDERTAKEN WITH FUNDS SUPPLIED

BY NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT. TIMING OF OTHER WORK UNKNOWN AT
PRESENT.

E. CONTACTS

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COL. FRANCISCO ULLOA
CHIEF OF CIVIL AVIATION
MINISTER OF DEFENSE
CASA DEL OBRERO 8 C. AL SUR
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3. PROJECT II -- IMPROVEMENTS TO MANAGUA AIRPORT

A. DESCRIPTION

PROJECT INVOLVES VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO LAS MERCEDES INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT IN MANAGUA. FIVE "JET WAYS", EACH TO ACCOMMODATE ONE JET,
WILL BE INSTALLED. THE PASSENGER TERMINAL WILL BE REDESIGNED AND
EXPANDED. RESURFACING OF THE RUNWAY AND RAMP FACILITIES WILL TAKE
PLACE AND THE RAMP FACILITIES WILL BE EXPANDED. SHOULDERS (35 FEET
WIDE) WILL BE CONSTRUCTED ON EACH SIDE OF THE RUNWAY. A NEW ILLUM-
INATION SYSTEM WILL BE INSTALLED ON THE RUNWAYS AND TAXIWAYS.

B. PROJECT COST

\$9 MILLION; \$6.5 MILLION IS TO BE SUPPLIED BY THE CENTRAL AMERICAN
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BANK FOR ECONOMIC INTEGRATION.

C. FOREIGN PROCUREMENT

JET WAYS, TWO TWO TRUCKS WITH 500,000 POUND C

ICAPACITY, RUNWAYS

LIGHTS, DISTANCE MEASUREMENT EQUIPMENT, SUPPORT AND SECURITY EQUIP-
MENT, CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE RUNWAY WHICH MUST BE "GROOVED".

D. TIME OF EXECUTION

BIDDING PROCEDURE TO COMMENCE WITHIN NEXT SIX MONTHS. CONSTRUC-
TION EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN JANUARY 1979 AND LAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS.

E. CONTACTS

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